An Account of the
Penitent Behaviour, Laſt Speech and Confeſſion
OF
Captain Charles Walſingham,
WHO BEING
Found Guilty the Laſt Seſſions at the *OLD-BAILY* of Wilful Murther, was Executed at *Tyburn* on *Friday*, *June* 14. 1689. with all the Circumſtances that attended his Pious and Exemplar Departure out of this Life, into an Eternal State.

CAptain *Charles Walſingham* having taken his Tryal at the *Seſſions-Houſe* in the *Old-Baily*, upon Three Indictments. The Firſt, for killing one Mr. *Carr* on the 28th of *December* laſt, by giving him ſeveral mortal Bruiſes. The Second, for killing *John Stoner* by giving him a mortal Wound with a Rapier in the Belly on the 29th of *March* laſt. And the Third, for killing *John Harbin* on the 28th of *May*, 1688. by giving him a mortal Wound with a Rapier under the Armpit, *&c.* Upon this being found Guilty of Wilful Murther, and Sentence of Death paſſing upon him, he was conveyed back to *Newgate*, where, for a time, he continued not much ſenſible of the deplorable Condition he was in; but divers Eminent Miniſters uſing ſpiritual Applications to ſoften the Hardneſs of his Heart, he grew more and more affected, cloſing with their Advice and Counſel; and in a ſhort time a wonderful Change viſibly appeared. And although he expected nothing leſs than to dye on the 31 of *May*, when the other Nine Priſoners ſuffered: Yet to afford him a larger ſpace of Repentance, to make his Peace and Reconcilement with Heaven, Their Majeſties were Graciouſly pleaſed to allow him a Reprieve till this Day, when, about Eleven of the Clock in the Morning, he was brought in a Cart to *Tyburn*, the place of Execution, and there accompanied by Three Miniſters of the Church of *England*, and another Gentleman, who came to conſolate him in his laſt Exigency and Paſſage to another Life, when (before the *Executioner* had unbound him, the *Sheriffs Officers* having charge to take care of his Body, as to its being delivered to his Friends in order to its Interment) Mr. *Wells*, one of the *Miniſters*, asked him, *How he found himſelf as to the ſettlement of his mind for Death, and a future Eſtate?* Pointing to the Beam, and bidding him look upon that, *which in a ſhort time would be inſtrumental in ſending him into Eternity, to appear before the great God, the Judge of all the Earth, from whom no Secrets are hid.* And then proceeded to exhort him to a true and ſincere Repentance, *That his great and manifold Sins might find a place for Pardon and Forgiveneſs; And that he, as vile as he was, by ſinning againſt ſo much light and knowledge, might be waſhed and cleanſed from his crying Sins, in the Blood and through the Merits of Jeſus Chriſt, deſiring him to bear up in his Afflictions, and in his Sufferings own his Vileneſs, and give Glory to God, proceeding fervently to pray that God of his infinite Mercies and Compaſſion towards Sinners, would look upon and ſtrengthen him to bear patiently the Death he was about to ſuffer.*

After theſe and the like Expreſſions and Prayers, he earneſtly deſired the Prayers of the People; and the Miniſters read ſundry Comfortable Expreſſions, ſuitable to the ſad Occaſion, out of the *Common-Prayer Book, &c.* And then urged him to unburthen his Conſcience, and not conceal any thing that lay heavy upon his Mind, or might hinder him from looking up with a ſtedfaſt Faith, and Aſſurance in God's Mercy, through Jeſus Chriſt. To which, with ſome Sighs, he replied in general terms, *That he had been a great Sinner, and had been much carried away by Evil Company, deſiring the Spectators to look upon him as a deplorable Spectacle of God's Juſtice.*

Juſtice, and to take warning by him as being cut off in the Flower of his Youth, hoping he might be an Example to them and others, how they went on in a courſe of ſinning.

Being after this, and a Prayer made for ſtrengthening him, and the Implorin God's Mercy towards his Precious and Immortal Soul, demanded, if he had any more ſatisfaction to give the People, as to his Life, Converſation, and Penitence, he deſired a Paper might be taken out of his Pocket, ſaying, *That was all he thought fit to leave behind him*; and not being capable of reading it with an audible Voice by reaſon of the Faintneſs his condition had reduced him to, *Mr. Wells* read i The Heads and Subſtance of which was, *viz.*

That he did heartily and unfeignedly acknowledge his many and heinous Trar greſſions againſt God and Man, and was fully Convicted of the danger of th ſmalleſt Sin, but that he had been guilty of many Sins, and drawn away others commit the like, but begged hearty Pardon of God, and all that he had injurec hoping they all, that heard his being brought to a ſhameful and ignominous Deatl by the Juſt Judgment of the Almighty's Sufferance, would walk more circum ſpectly, and apply their time to make their Peace, before they were hurried ou of the World, deſiring God would open their Eyes and turn their Hearts; beg ing Pardon of thoſe he had injur'd by ſhedding Innocent Blood, Imploring it might not be laid to his Charge. And that he had Bleſſed God that he had given him a time to Repent, when he had hurried others out of the World, without any ſuch ſpace or opportunity; deſiring the Auditors to make Good of the precious oppor tunity put into their hands, leſt ſome of them might be in like manner carried out of the World, without time to Repent. Praying therein for the King and Queen's Majeſties by Name; as alſo for the Welfare, Settlement, and Tranquility of the Nation, deſiring God to Bleſs the CH'IRCH of *ENGLAND*, of whom he confeſſed himſelf a Member, and concluded the Paper with a Pious and hearty Prayer, *&c.*

The Paper being read, he was Prayed with, and deſired to forgive all People that had any ways injured him, and ask Forgiveneſs of thoſe he had injured, which he did with an audible Voice, and then proceeded to make a Confeſſion of his Faith in the Apoſtles Creed. After this ſeveral Paſſages were again repeated out of the *Common Prayer*, and in conſideration he ſtood upon the brink of the Grave, and might truly be termed a Dying Man, the *Prayer uſed at the Viſitation of the Sick* was read, with other Conſolation; and being ſubject to ſome little Fainting under this great Tryal, he was ſupported a little by a Perſon that was in the Cart to aſ ſiſt, yet the Miniſter at his Inſtance, declared that it was not through the fear of Death, for his Life having been all along Martial, the fear of Death, as it was meerly ſo, was beneath him, but the ſenſe of his Sins had broken him under the ſenſe of God's Wrath and Diſpleaſure, which he might juſtly fear, did not the greatneſs of his Mercy interpoſe. However, there was hopes of Pardon and Sal vation to Sinners, upon a true and ſincere Repentance, minding him of *Mary Magdalen* and others; and after divers other Prayers for confirming him in this his great Extremity, he kiſſed and embraced the Miniſters, and prepared himſelf for Death, not deſiring a Pſalm, tho' it was offered, leſt it might diſcompoſe him, as being now ſolemnly fixed upon Thoughts of Eternity, and appearing before the Dreadful Tribunal, *&c.* Being bid by one of the Miniſters to ſay at his going off, *Lord into thy hands I recommend my Spirit, Lord receive my Soul*; he continued ſo to do after the Cap was drawn over his Eyes, till the Cart drew away.

In Summ, his Penitence and Behaviour was ſuch, that he drew Tears from moſt of the Eyes of the Spectators. As for his Quality, he was a Gentleman born, and had very good Education, giving himſelf up to Martial Exploits, confeſſing his too much Paſſion and Raſhneſs had been the occaſion of the Bloodſhed, without any Malice or Deſign. He was cut off in the Flower of his Age, not exceeding Thirty Years, being a very proper and comely Perſon; and his Corps was put in a Mourning Coffin, and carried back in a Coach, in order to his Interment.

Licenſed, *June* 14*th.* 1689.

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